

THE CORONATION OF EDWARD VII

Being an Account of How His Majesty Will Be Crowned King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India, Together with a Description of Some Ancient Usages, Jewels and Trappings to Be Revived and Refurbished for

Thursday, June 26, A. D., 1902

ON THURSDAY, June 26, Edward VII. will be crowned king of Great Britain and Ireland and emperor of India. All the machinery of the government and the energies of English political and social life



THE PRINCE OF WALES.

have for months been directed towards perfecting arrangements for this unique event, which promises to be the most splendid coronation in the history of the United Kingdom.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Some Wonders of the Structure Where Crowning Will Take Place.

The coronation will occur in Westminster abbey in about the only open chapel in that wonderful structure. This chapel is raised about five feet from the surrounding floor of the abbey, and is at least 50 feet square. It is approached by five stone steps running the full length of the chapel. A railing of a half dozen long, rounded wooden bars and about four feet in height prevents entrance except through low wooden double gates. At the back is a long altar. An immense antique valuable rug covers the altar steps. Another rug, smaller, yet a very large one at that, is laid just inside the entrance. On this will be placed the coronation chairs in which the king and queen will be seated. To one side are stalls, the same, with cushioned benches much after the style of choir corners, lining the side of the chapel. From all sides on the floor of the abbey in that section of the building, save from the back, where is the altar, it would be possible to obtain an almost unobstructed view of the coronation ceremonies. The railing at the back of the altar separates this chapel from the chapel of Edward the Confessor, who reigned about 1042. The ceremony of coronation will be performed by the archbishop of Canterbury. The king and queen will then ascend a raised throne erected for the occasion, where they will receive the homage of the peers.

The first coronation in this chapel, which is commonly called the choir, was that of William the Conqueror in 1066. Since then this plain and ancient looking raised plat-

in the chapel of Edward the Confessor. They are high-backed, built of oak and look much the worse for wear. The four legs of each chair are golden lions upon their haunches, with the seat of the chair resting upon their shoulders. Until some years ago the chairs were unguarded by railings. Then it was discovered that the guides would permit any visitor to sit in the chairs for a fee. Thus came the railings.

BRITISH CROWN JEWELS.

They Are Valued at \$35,000,000 by Experts in Precious Stones.

These ancient chairs are not the only curious things with which King Edward will have to do during the coronation ceremonies. He will first of all wear St. Edward's crown, the model by which all latter-day crowns have been fashioned. At the conclusion of the ceremonies he will have placed upon his head the crown of Queen Victoria. Both of these crowns are at present among the crown jewels in the iron-barred place of safekeeping in Wakefield tower, which is one of the buildings that helps make the Tower of London. From out any one of several windows in Wakefield tower the visitor may look down upon the parade where soldiers are drilling most of the day.

Then the archbishop will recite the Nicene creed and the bishop of London will preach a short sermon.

Just before the sermon the king, who up to that stage of the ceremony will have been uncovered, will put on a cap of crimson velvet trimmed with ermine.

Then comes the oath-taking, after which the king will be anointed. Then the king's cap and crimson robe will be removed and four Garter knights will hold over him a rich pall of silk or cloth of gold, the dean of Westminster will pour holy oil into a spoon and the archbishop of Canterbury will anoint the king, making the sign of the cross on the top of his majesty's head, thus consecrating him "King over this people, whom the Lord your God hath given you to rule and govern."

The king will then kneel and the dean of Westminster will invest him with the super-tunic. Next will come the ceremonies which caused so much discussion, including the presentation of the sword of state, the standards and the spurs, and then the orb will be placed in the king's right hand, he will again be divested of the crimson robe and will be enveloped in a purple robe of state, and the archbishop of Canterbury will give the scepter to the king, while the lord

for the Queen of William III. It is set with pearls, sapphires, diamonds and other precious stones. The scepter for a queen consort is very like the king's, only not so large; the rod for the queen is of ivory surmounted by a dove and a cross. It is said that Queen Alexandra would prefer to be crowned according to Russian custom, by the king's own hands after his coronation, but she realizes that the innovation might not be pleasing to English ideas.

KING EDWARD'S ROBES.

They Are Ecclesiastical Garments and Worn Only on This Occasion.

The robes which King Edward will wear while being crowned, and afterward while receiving the sacrament, are ecclesiastical vestments, and worn only upon this occasion by the sovereign. They are assumed in Westminster abbey, and taken off there, after which the robe of state of purple velvet is put on. When the king enters the abbey he wears a crimson velvet cloak. The coronation robes proper, then, are the priestly vestments, and consist of a dalmatic, stole and maniple. The dalmatic is a long robe or super-tunic, partly open at the sides, of cloth of gold richly embroidered in colors, with Tudor roses, shamrocks, thistles, fleur-de-lis and royal coronets, and lined with crimson; the stole of bullion embroidery, with floral designs, has the cross of St. George worked at each end; it is lined with crimson silk. The stole is worn deacon-wise—that is, while a priest would wear it crossed over his breast, a deacon fastens it on his left shoulder, and crossing it over his breast secures the end under his right arm. The maniple, which much resembles the stole, only smaller, is worn over the left arm.

The reason given for attiring a layman in vestments worn only by the clergy is that the monarch represents the church, and is the protector of its privileges. Before the anointing the king is conducted into St. Edward's chapel and vested in these ecclesiastical garments, and after the act of homage they are laid aside.

It is the duty of the lord great chamberlain to dress the king for the coronation ceremony, and to serve him with water, for which service he may claim the basins, ewers and towels, the king's bed and bedding, used the night before the coronation, and, indeed, all the furniture of the bed room, with the king's wearing apparel and nightshirt. He may also claim 40 yards of crimson velvet. All the cloth on which the sovereign walks in procession is claimed by the grand almoner of England; a tun of good

the progress of a king into its wealthy domain. Therefore, when the king and queen ride in state along the Strand and reach the law courts, a quaint little ceremony will be gone through with stately solemnity ere the royal cavalcade proceeds on its way.

At the spot where old Temple Bar used to stand, but where now an artistic monument nicknamed "The Griffin" occupies the center of the narrow roadway, the lord mayor, with his mace bearer, his sword bearer, and all the retinue of the Mansion house, will await the coming of royalty. It may be that, with proper regard for effect, a replica of the ancient gates of the city will shut off Fleet street from the Strand in much the same way as was done with such striking effect when the late queen made



THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

her triumphal entry into Dublin a year before her death. Whether this be so or not, there will be a demand as to who comes there on behalf of the representatives of Gog and Magog, and when it is made known that it is their majesties, then the lord mayor will ride lareheaded into the royal presence, and as evidence of loyalty will hand to his majesty the keys of the city. These, in due course, will be handed back, and the lord mayor will then lead the way down Fleet street, past St. Paul's as far as the Mansion house, where doubtless he will take leave of the royal party.

Another interesting ceremony will be the cutting of the first sod for the Queen Victoria memorial to be erected immediately in



WEST END OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

At the further end of the parade is Tower Green, a green spot in the middle of which Queen Anne Boleyn, Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, Queen Katherine Howard, Jane, Viscountess Rochford, Lady Jane Grey, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, and many others were beheaded. St. Edward's crown was made for the coronation of Charles II. in 1661. There has never been any attempt to arrive at its value, which is roughly estimated at £385,000 sterling. Two good-sized pear-shaped pearl pendants on the top of the crown are known to be worth £9,000.

This crown and that of Queen Victoria rest among crown jewels valued at more than £7,000,000. They rest in a great case inside the iron-barred affair at the top of Wakefield tower in a room which is said to have been used by Henry VII. for his devotions while a prisoner in the tower and where he was murdered. The intrinsic value of the crown of Queen Victoria is something over £3,000,000. It rests at the top of the case and was made in 1838 for the coronation of the queen. Its chief jewels were taken from older crowns and from the royal collection. Among these is an enormous ruby which came into the possession of England from Spain in 1367. Its history is dated back to a much earlier period. With 75 brilliant and large diamonds it forms a Maltese cross on the front of the diadem. Below it is a magnificent sapphire. There are seven other large sapphires, eight large emeralds and many hundreds of diamonds decorating the band and arches. A cross

of the manner of workshop supports the king's right hand and a ring is placed on his majesty's fourth finger.

The orb is a golden ball, six inches in diameter and 11 inches high, including the cross, which surmounts the orb. Diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and pearls are set in the orb; also, a fine amethyst, which forms the pedestal of the cross. When the crown is finally placed upon the monarch's head, instantly all that great crowd of peers and peeresses put on their glittering coronets, and the archbishop rings with "God save the King!"

According to official rules, in theory, the coronets of the nobility are never worn except at the coronation of a sovereign, when they are put on at the precise moment when the prime of England places the crown upon the brow of the king. Upon occasions of state the coronet is carried before the personage on a cushion, and at the funeral it is placed on the coffin, or borne on a purple cushion.

The shouts of "God save the King" are caught up by the crowd outside, church bells ring and cannon are fired, not only in London, but in all chief towns. After a Bible is given to the king a solemn te deum is chanted, and enthronement follows or homage. The king is conducted to a throne in the center of the abbey, and there receives the act of homage, first from the lords spiritual, who kneel about him, pronounce the words of homage and kiss his hand. Princes of the blood royal ascend the steps



HER MAJESTY, ALEXANDRA, QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

wine was also formerly allowed him at a coronation ceremony.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

He is the Stage Manager of All the Coronation Events.

By hereditary right, the Duke of Norfolk is earl marshal, and he also holds the office of chief butler, which entitles him to receive a gold basin and ewer. The lord mayor of London offers a gold cup of wine to the king, and receives the cup for a fee; with 12 citizens of London, the mayor also claims the right to sit at a table next the cupboard, on the left side of the banquetting hall. The privilege of dining at a table on the king's right hand belongs to the barons of the Cinque Ports, who hold the canopy over the king during some part of the ceremony. They also carry a canopy over the queen.

Of the nobles and others who are, so to speak, stage managing the coronation, the Duke of Norfolk takes premier position. As earl marshal it falls to his lot to supervise practically all the preliminary arrangements, and that fossilized institution, the Herald's college, of which he is the head, is for a year being worked at top speed. It is his grace of Norfolk who will receive the applications of peers and peeresses who consider themselves entitled to be present at the coronation. It was his grace who gave orders the other day regarding how the ladies of title shall be attired and what shall be the number of gill nobs in the coronets of his brother peers.

PLEASING TO THE PEOPLE.

Incidental Ceremonies Which Will Delight the Gaping Crowds.

Apart from the coronation itself what, so far, has afforded the greatest possible satisfaction to the 5,000,000 inhabitants of London is that the king and queen, and with them the rest of the royal family and scores of foreign princes and potentates, will come among them, will not be content with simply riding from palace to abbey and back again, but will pass in state through the principal arteries and some of the mean streets of the metropolis, in order that their subjects may see them and cheer them.

It will be the most memorable 14-mile drive ever undertaken by royalty. Queen Victoria did something of the kind on the occasion of the diamond jubilee in 1897, but great as this undoubtedly was, it will be excelled by the royal pageant to be carried out June 20.

The reception of the king and queen by the lord mayor will be suggestive of medieval times. It is one of the ancient privileges of the city of London to bar, if need be, even



KING EDWARD VII. IN HIS CORONATION ROBE.

Thursday seems to have been a popular day for coronations. June 26 is the anniversary of the day on which Oliver Cromwell was installed as lord protector in Westminster hall. It is also notable that the following English monarchs have been crowned on a Thursday: Stephen, John, Richard II., William and Mary, Queen Anne, George IV., William IV., and Queen Victoria. That is a fair collection of lucky and unlucky monarchs, which makes it difficult for any superstitious person to gather omens for the day chosen.

It is reported from London that King Edward will abolish many of the old customs connected with the

form or chapel has witnessed all coronations. The floor of the chapel is a mosaic pavement of curious design. The materials for the pavement were brought from Rome and laid about 1208. The pavement is composed of various kinds of marbles and porphyry interspersed with Latin inscriptions in bronzed letters. The groundwork is English marble and the whole has been greatly injured. Little remains of the inscriptions, copies of which have been preserved and which show that the design of the pavement represents the probable duration of the world. Three fine tombs occupy the north side of the sacristy, which name is given to the inclosed altar.

THE CORONATION CHAIRS.

The One to Be Occupied by the King Was Made for Edward I.

The chairs on which the king and queen will rest are known as the coronation chairs. That to be occupied by the king was last used by Queen Victoria at the jubilee, and yet bears the colors of that occasion. This chair was made for Edward I. to inclose in its seat the famous stone of Scone. Tradition identifies this stone with the one on which Jacob rested his head at Bethel. His sons carried it to Egypt, and from thence it found its way to Spain with King Gathelus, son of Cecrops, the builder of Athens. About 700 B. C. it appeared in Ireland, where it was carried by a Spanish king's son upon an invasion of the tight little isle. There it was placed upon the sacred hill of Tara, and became known as the "stone of destiny." It was claimed that when the Irish kings were seated upon it at coronations the stone groined aloud if the claimant was of royal race, but remained silent if a pretender.

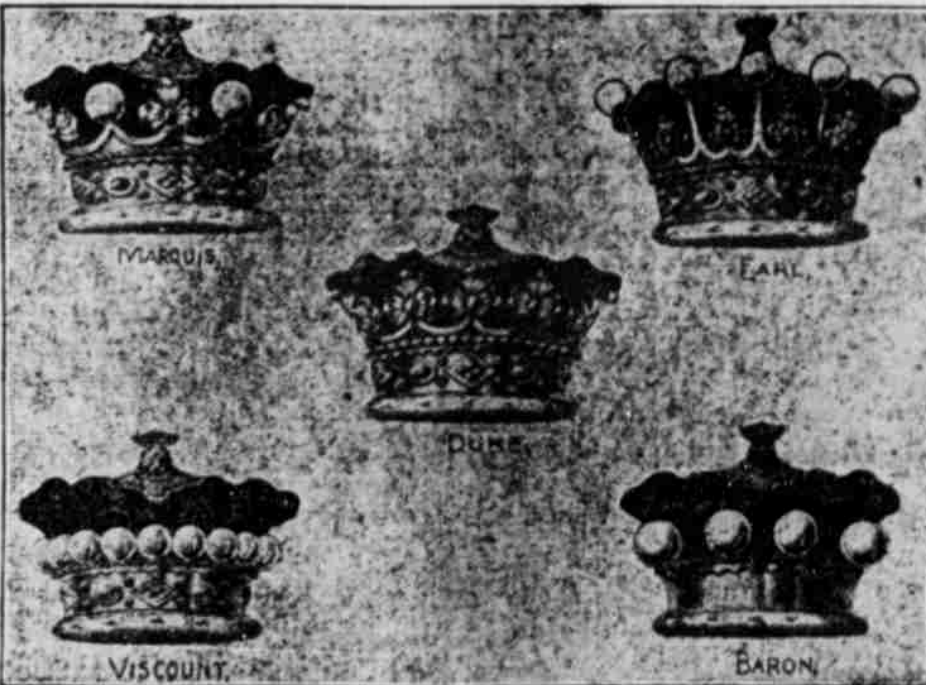
It is claimed for this remarkable piece, which is really Scotch sandstone, that in 330 B. C. Fergus, the founder of the Scottish monarchy, and who was of Ireland's royal blood, received it in Scotland, where King Kenneth, in 850 A. D., deposited it in the monastery of Scone. It is certain that the stone was for centuries an object of veneration to the people of Scotland. They fancied that while it remained in their country Scots would be monarchs of that realm. When Edward I. overran Scotland he seized the stone and took it to England, where, in 1297, it was placed and kept in Westminster Abbey, notwithstanding the repeated efforts of the Scots to reclaim it. Ever since the sovereigns of England have been crowned upon this chair. The chair upon which the queen will rest was made for the coronation of William and Mary. Both chairs are now behind a small railing



BRITISH ROYAL CROWN.

coronation exercises, but some must be retained. In the following columns we shall attempt to give an outline of the ceremonies which will mark the important occasion.

Edward VII., the chief figure in the grand event, was born November 9, 1841, and succeeded his mother January 22, 1901. He was married to Princess Alexandra of Denmark March 10, 1863. Their oldest living son, George Frederick, prince of Wales, was born in 1865, and married Princess May of Teck in 1893. The other living children of the royal couple are Louise Victoria, duchess of Fife; Maud, Princess Charles of Denmark; and Princess Victoria Alexandra.



CORONATION CORONETS FOR PEERS AND PEERESSES.

at the top of the crown is made up of a rose-cut sapphire and four large diamonds. In all there are 2,700 diamonds and many other jewels in the crown, which weigh over 39 ounces. In this collection, too, are the orb and the royal scepter which the king and queen will hold and which are of very great value.

THE CORONATION SERVICE.

Official Form, as Amended and Approved by His Majesty.

The form of the coronation service, as finally amended and approved by the king, consists of 28 distinct sections. The king and queen and their retinue will form in procession at Buckingham palace. They will enter the great west door of Westminster abbey, where they will be welcomed by the shouts of the king's scholars of Westminster school and by the anthem, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'We will go to the house of the Lord.'"

Instead of going direct to their thrones the royal pair will kneel in private prayer on footstools in front of their chairs. Then the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord high chancellor, the lord great chamberlain and the Garter King of Arms, each in turn, will formally present the king, the lords carrying the regalia will step up and the dean of Westminster will place the regalia on the altar.

The abbreviated litany and part of the communion service will follow.

of the throne, take off their coronets, repeat the homage, touch the crown upon the king's head, and kiss his left cheek. The peers of the realm follow suit, with the exception that they kiss the hand instead of the cheek. The words of homage are:

"I do become your liege-man of life and limb, and of earthly worship, and faith and truth I will bear unto you to live and die against all manner of folk, so help me, God."

When the act of homage is over, the members of the house of commons give nine hearty cheers, with cries of "God save the King," repeated by all.

During homage medals are thrown to the occupants of the choir and lower galleries. Divested of all symbols of sovereignty, the king receives the holy sacrament, and the "Hallelujah chorus" concludes the service.

CROWNING OF THE QUEEN.

Ceremony Will Be Simple and Take Up But a Few Minutes.

After this ceremony the queen will be crowned. She will be anointed on the head, four peeresses holding a magnificent pall over her, the king will put a ring on her finger, the archbishop of York will place the crown on her head and the scepter and ivory rod and dove will be placed in her hands.

Prayers will be offered, the peeresses will put on their coronets and the service will end with the communion.

The crown for Queen Alexandra was made

front of Buckingham palace. This will be done by King Edward in the presence of his illustrious guests gathered from all parts of the world. The happy idea of beginning this great national undertaking at the time of the coronation originated with his majesty, who rightly considers that the presence in London of so many foreign royalties and diplomatic personages is an opportunity that the nations of the world will gladly seize to pay a tribute to the memory of Queen Victoria.

AMERICA TO THE FRONT.

To Be Represented at the Coronation by a Special Embassy.

The coronation will be witnessed by representatives from every known country in the world, including all the provinces and



THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

dependencies of the British crown. The European powers will be represented by princes of the blood and the republic of France by a special embassy. The United States delegation will consist of Hon. Whitelaw Reid, special commissioner, Gen. J. M. Wilson and Admiral Watson, representing respectively the army and the navy. In the great naval parade and demonstration preceding the coronation, in the English channel, the battleship Illinois, in command of Rear Admiral Crowninshield, will take a prominent part. The official representatives of the United States will have seats in Westminster abbey and will be treated very much like princes. For the time being they will outrank Mr. Choate, the American ambassador at London, and all other diplo-